

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH

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S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO),

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MR. CULLUMS

NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

NEA/INS - MR. KUX

NEA/PAB - MR. LANDE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
USCINCEUR

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 22

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MARCH 22,  
1977:

Q. YOU HAVE NO REACTION ON BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT?

A. WELL, ON THE BREZHNEV SPEECH, IN GENERAL, I DON'T REAL-  
LY HAVE MUCH TO OFFER IN SPECIFIC COMMENT. IT LAYS OUT  
THE SOVIET POSITION ON A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ISSUES.  
OBVIOUSLY, IT LEAVES OPTIONS OPEN FOR THE SECRETARY'S TALKS  
IN MOSCOW, AND IT IS INTENDED THAT THESE MATTERS WILL BE  
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DISCUSSED IN DETAIL.

Q. DID YOU SAY THERE IS NONE SCHEDULED?

A. THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S SPEECH DID GIVE CONSIDERABLE  
PROMINENCE TO THE MIDDLE EAST -- WITHOUT GOING INTO A  
POINT-BY-POINT DISCUSSION OF IT HERE, I THINK IT IS FAIR  
TO SAY THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING AN ELABORATION OF  
THE SOVIET VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT -- ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD  
TO HIS SUGGESTION THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE, INDEED, APPROPRIATE

ON CURBING THE ARMS RACE THERE AND ELSEWHERE.

I DON'T THINK I HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENT THAN THAT.

Q. WELL, WON'T THE SERIES OF SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS THAT  
BREZHNEV HAS MADE REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST -- WHY ARE YOU  
SINGLING OUT JUST THE -- EMPHASIZING THE ARMS RACE? THE  
CODE ON THE ARMS RACE?

A. WELL I DID SAY THAT A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS WERE  
DISCUSSED IN THE SPEECH; BUT THIS IS ONE THAT I THINK IS  
WORTH TAKING NOTE OF.

Q. YOU THINK IT IS A POSITIVE -- A PROMISING THING, DON'T YOU? YOU ARE RATHER IMPRESSED WITH WHAT MR. BREZHNEV SAID ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST.

A. NO, I WOULD RATHER NOT CHARACTERIZE IT ACTUALLY.

Q. WELL LET ME TRY IT THIS WAY: THE SECRETARY -- AGAIN, PERHAPS A DEPARTURE FROM HIS PREDECESSOR -- SAID PUBLICLY THAT HE WOULD WELCOME SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN -- ACTIVE SOVIET PARTICIPATION -- IN THE UNFOLDING DRAMA OF OUR MIDDLE EAST POLICY.

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A. YES.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THAT THAT IS GOING TO CONTINUE AND YOU WELCOME BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT AS ACTIVE SOVIET PARTICIPATION?

A. WELL, THE SOVIET UNION IS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. RIGHT?

Q. YES, WE BOTH KNOW THAT.

A. AND THEY, LIKE OURSELVES, HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROMOTE THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. YES.

A. WHAT ELSE CAN I ADD?

Q. WELL, WE CAN ASK: WILL THE TRIP BE AN EXTENSION OF DRAWING THE SOVIET UNION INTO --

A. THIS, I COULDN'T SAY.

Q. -- OUR MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY?

A. THIS I COULDN'T SAY. OBVIOUSLY, THE KEY FOCUS OF THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS WOULD BE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES THEMSELVES, AS SET OUT IN THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338. BEYOND THAT, I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN CONTRIBUTE ON IT.

Q. LET ME MAKE A SUGGESTION.

A. YES.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES SEE ANY PARALLELISM IN THE  
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SECRETARY GENERAL'S APPROACH TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE  
CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "PARALLELISM" WITH --

Q. THE PRESIDENT HAS DISCUSSED DEMILITARIZED ZONES AND  
OTHER ISSUES WHICH BREZHNEV ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO YESTERDAY.

IS THERE ANY PARALLELISM THERE, IN THEIR PACKAGE APPROACHES  
TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I CAN'T OFFER YOU AN OPINION ON THAT, I DON'T KNOW.  
SORRY.

ANYTHING ELSE ON THIS, BEFORE I MAKE ANOTHER ANNOUNCEMENT?

Q. YES, YOU MENTIONED, VOLUNTARILY, ABOUT YOUR INTERESTS  
OR OUR INTERESTS IN BREZHNEV'S SUGGESTION --  
ESPECIALLY HIS SUGGESTION ABOUT THE ARMS RACE. SO GIVING  
EMPHASIS TO ONE POINT OF BREZHNEV'S REMARKS ON THE MIDDLE  
EAST HAS ALREADY BEEN POINTED OUT.

AT THIS JUNCTURE, WITH SADAT TELLING ARAFAT ON SUNDAY,  
THAT THE UNITED STATES HOLDS 99 PERCENT OF THE CARDS IN  
THE MIDDLE EAST GAME -- AND PARTICULARLY THE FLOW OF  
ARMS THROUGH ISRAEL -- AREN'T YOU REALLY PUTTING  
PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURES -- ADDING NERVOUSNESS TO THE  
ISRAELI POPULATION, THAT SOMETHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN?

THIS IS NO JOKE. THIS IS SERIOUS.

A. NO, I TAKE IT SERIOUSLY. BUT I AM AFRAID I CANNOT  
ACCEPT YOUR POINT ON THAT.

THE QUESTION WAS ASKED ABOUT PARALLELISMS, AND WE DIDN'T  
GET ONE. ALL WE GOT WAS SOMETHING ON THE ARMS RACE.  
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WHAT ELSE ARE WE PARALLEL ON BESIDES SECURE BORDERS  
FOR ISRAEL -- WHICH ARE UNKNOWN?

A. I CAN'T OFFER YOU ANYMORE IN THE WAY OF A  
REACTION ON THIS.

Q. WHEN IS THE BRIEFING GOING TO BE HELD ON THE VANCE  
TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST -- TO MOSCOW?

A. I HAVEN'T INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE A BRIEFING.

Q. WELL, I THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT THERE WAS GOING TO BE

A BRIEFING.

A. NO, I DIDN'T. YESTERDAY, A COUPLE OF PEOPLE ASKED IF THERE WOULD BE A BACKGROUNDER, AND I SAID I WOULD LOOK INTO IT. I DON'T HAVE A DECISION ON THAT YET.

Q. AND THE SECRETARY WILL HAVE NO NEWS CONFERENCE?

A. HE HAS NO INTENTION OF HAVING A NEWS CONFERENCE BEFORE HE GOES TO MOSCOW.

Q. HAS THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT MADE ANY REQUEST FOR ARMS FROM THE UNITED STATES? TO BUY ARMS OR GET CREDIT FOR ARMS TO BUY ARMS, WHATEVER IT IS.

A. MY RECOLLECTION IS THAT THEY HAVE NOT, EXCEPT IT SEEMS TO ME THERE ARE SOME C-130'S THAT HAVE BEEN "IN THE MILL" FOR A LONG TIME.

Q. APART FROM THE C-130'S --

A. NOT THAT I KNOW OF.

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Q. -- THE UNDERSTANDING GIVEN TO THE CONGRESS WAS THAT EGYPT WOULD NOT ASK FOR ANYTHING ELSE IN 1976, BUT WE ARE NOW NEARING THE END OF THE THIRD QUARTER --

A. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY REQUEST FROM THE EGYPTIANS. THE C-130 DEAL HAS BEEN IN PROGRESS FOR QUITE A WHILE.

Q. HAVE ALL THOSE PLANES BEEN DELIVERED, ALL THE C-130'S BEEN DELIVERED?

A. I'M NOT SURE ALL HAD BEEN DELIVERED. LAST TIME I CHECKED, I BELIEVE TWO HAD BEEN DELIVERED.

Q. TWO HAD BEEN DELIVERED?

A. YES. I'D HAVE TO CHECK ON THAT POINT FOR YOU, THOUGH, WHETHER OR NOT ALL OF THEM HAVE BEEN DELIVERED AS YET.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US SOME MORE ABOUT THE PLO'S COUNCIL'S MEETING?

A. I CAN'T. I GAVE YOU EVERYTHING I HAD ON THAT YESTERDAY.

Q. YOU'RE NOT CHARACTERIZING THE PLO AS "MODERATE" ANY

LONGER?

A. I DON'T THINK I EVER CHARACTERIZED IT AS "MODERATE."

Q. HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE THE PLO NOW?

A. I RESISTED CHARACTERIZING THE PLO, AND I WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

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Q. HAVE YOU ANY REACTION OR COMMENT TO THE RESULT OF THE INDIAN ELECTIONS AND THE END OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY?

A. WELL, I THINK JODY POWELL YESTERDAY, IN THE WHITE HOUSE, MADE QUITE CLEAR THAT WE WELCOMED THE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS JUST HELD IN INDIA, AND IT WAS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT INDIA IS A KEY COUNTRY IN ASIA. THIS REAFFIRMATION OF THE ADHERENCE TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IS A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE. I MIGHT ALSO SAY THAT WE WELCOME THE ACTION BY THE OUTGOING GANDHI GOVERNMENT IN LIFTING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY.

Q. SORRY TO SEE HER GO, FRED? (LAUGHTER)

A. WELL, WE HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH MRS. GANDHI'S GOVERNMENT. AND WE EXPECT TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT. AND I WOULD SAY THAT INDIA'S FULL RETURN NOW TO THE DEMOCRATIC PATH AND OUR COMMON COMMITMENT TO BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND VALUES WOULD TEND TO STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONS.

Q. IS THERE ANY THINKING IN THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE

ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIA AS A RESULT OF THE ELECTIONS AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT?

A. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY THINKING IN THAT DIRECTION. THE ELECTION RESULTS ARE REALLY NOT IN, COMPLETELY, ARE THEY? DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A. NO, NOTHING ON THAT AT ALL.

Q. THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO MOSCOW, IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT ANY MEMBER OF THE OFFICIAL DELEGATION

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WILL MEET WITH ANY OF THE DISSIDENTS WHILE THEY ARE

THERE?

A. I HAVE NO INDICATION IN THAT DIRECTION AT ALL.

Q. SAMUEL LEWIS IS THE CANDIDATE FOR THE AMBASSADORSHIP  
IN ISRAEL?

A. ANY ANNOUNCEMENT TO THAT EFFECT, OR WITH REGARD TO  
AN AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENT WILL COME OUT OF THE WHITE  
HOUSE.

VANCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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